

VENGEANCE IS SO SWEET

St. Albans Overrun By Dazzling Wycombe

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 7, St. Albans 1

OH, how sweet is revenge! This vintage performance by Wycombe on Monday night more than made up for the 4-1 defeat Wanderers suffered at Clarence Park last month. It was a glittering display by a side with determination to win.

When Paul Bates and Len Worley play together like this, exchanging positions, overlapping, and supplying the rest of the attack with a stream of precision centres, not many defences can withstand the pressure:

This goal-gut put Wycombe's total for the season to 71 in 22 games. Even the most hard-to-please fan could not find fault with this.

But it was not just the forwards that shone on Monday. St. Albans were outplayed in every department of the game, and even though they scored first through centre-half turned centre-forward Dave Bromley, they rarely looked dangerous.

St. Albans went ahead in the fifth minute, but even before that Wycombe had had attempts by Samuels and Horseman scrambled off the goal-line.

Les Merrick, just returned from honeymoon, turned in his best show of the season, and he too had an effort scrambled clear before the most improved player of the year, Keith Samuels, started the ball rolling with a hard shot after a clever dribble by Worley.

Bill Fowler put up a good display in the St. Albans goal, but could not withstand the blitz that was to follow. He made a great save to Bates and Merrick hit the bar before leading marksman Tony Horseman put Wycombe ahead in the 31st minute, after Merrick had headed down a good Worley corner.

And that was it. Wycombe went goal mad and the fans

goal happy. And as the goal tally mounted we even saw the usually calm Bates jumping off the ground and punching thin air. Exhibitionism? Not a bit of it—just spirited exuberance with the knowledge that everything is swinging.

Samuels hit three smart goals—he was credited with the last one even though his shot was deflected. And no goalkeeper on earth would have stopped his second for which he hurtled through the air horizontally to head in yet another precision centre from Worley.

Before the interval Merrick bulletted in a great header from Bates' centre, and if in the second-half he looked a bit out of it, it was only because he was overshadowed by the dazzling Worley who silenced his critics once and for all.

Horseman headed in another Worley centre in the second-half, and Bates almost ripped the net from outside the penalty box.

As the fans sang away, some of them got a bit carried away, and the referee's attention was brought to someone throwing things.

Bates' quality as skipper came to the fore when he walked over to the terrace and asked them to stop it. "We don't want the ref to stop the game now," he appealed.

If Wanderers can keep this up they must be favourites for the honours list this season.

In defence Baker, Rundle, Gale and Beck were outstanding.

Wycombe — Maskell; Beck, Roystone; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

St. Albans — Fowler; Lawrence, Hughes; Pottle, Burch, Wood; Gladwin, Walcock, Bromley, Taylor, Butterfield.